Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,
wherein the agent for precipitating autoantibodies is ammonium sulfate and/or alcohol.

3. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,
wherein the carrier is a magnetic particle or an ELISA plate.

4. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,
wherein the autoantibodies are directed against a beta1-adrenergen receptor, a muscarinergen M2 receptor, an alphal-adrenergen receptor, and an endothelin IA receptor, a PAR-1, PAR-2, and/or PAR-3.

5. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 4,
wherein the autoantibodies directed against the beta1-adrenergen receptor are associated with dilatative myocardiopathy, Chagas' myocardiopathy, or myocarditis; the autoantibodies directed against the muscarinergen M2 receptor are associated with dilatative myocardiopathy and/or Chagas' cardiomyopathy; the autoantibodies directed against the alpha1-adrenergen receptor are associated with essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension and/or psoriasis; and/or the autoantibodies directed against endothelin IA receptor, PAR-1, PAR-2 and/or PAR-3 are associated with Raynaud's syndrome.

6. (Previously Presented) Method for detecting disease-associated autoantibodies, which are directed at G protein-coupled receptors for diagnosis of autoimmune diseases, comprising
a) bringing bodily fluid into contact with an agent for precipitating autoantibodies, wherein a fraction of said fluid comprising said autoantibodies is precipitated and

wherein said autoantibodies are, upon precipitation, returned to essentially their native state,

b) bringing the precipitated fraction into contact with a peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of a G protein-coupled receptor and a tag, whereby a mixture is formed in which the autoantibodies bind said sequence or partial sequence of said peptide,

c) incubating the mixture with a carrier coated with an anti-tag to bind said tag,

d) washing the carrier,

e) incubating the carrier with anti-IgG antibody subclasses, wherein the anti-IgG antibody is marked for an enzyme reaction or color reaction, and

f) carrying out said enzyme reaction or color reaction

to detect disease-associated autoantibodies, which are directed at said G protein-coupled receptor to diagnose said diseases,

wherein the peptide that comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the receptor is used in the detection of autoantibodies associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, or psoriasis, and that the peptide that comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the receptor is used for Chargas' myocardiopathy, dilatative myocardiopathy, and/or Raynaud' s syndrome.

7. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,
wherein

— the autoantibodies associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the betal-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with Chargas' cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the beta1-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with myocarditis are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the beta1-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with dilatative cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the

muscarinergen M2 receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with Chargas' cardiomyopathy are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop of the muscarinergen M2 receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with essential hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with refractory hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with pulmonary hypertension are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1-adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with psoriasis are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the alpha1 -adrenergen receptor,

— the autoantibodies associated with Raynaud' s Syndrome are brought into contact with the peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the endothelin IA receptor, PAR-1, PAR-2 and/or PAR-3.

8. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,
wherein the tag is biotin and the anti-tag is avidin or streptavidin.

9. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 6,
wherein

— in case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG1 subclass is detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,

— in case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are detected,

— in case of myocarditis, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG1 subclass is detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,

~~— in case of malignant hypertension, IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are detected,~~

— in case of essential hypertension, IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG2 subclass is detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,

— in case of refractory hypertension, IgG1 and/or IgG3 subclasses are detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the first loop, and/or the IgG2 subclass is detected if the peptide comprises a sequence or partial sequence of the second loop,

— in case of pulmonary hypertension, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are detected, in the case of psoriasis, IgG1, IgG2, IgG3 and/or IgG4 subclasses are detected, and/or

— in case of Raynaud' s Syndrome, IgG1 subclass is detected.

10. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,

wherein the autoantibodies are further concentrated or purified before being contacted with the peptide in b).

11. (Currently Amended) Method of claim 10,

wherein

the method for further concentrating or purifying the autoantibodies comprises:

i) ~~obtaining an IgG fraction from bodily fluid,~~

~~ii)~~ bringing the IgG fraction that was obtained into contact with a peptide that comprises a partial sequence of a first or second loop of a G protein-coupled receptor and a tag, whereby a mixture is obtained in which the autoantibody binds said partial sequence of said peptide,

~~iii)~~ ii) incubating the mixture with a carrier coated with an anti-tag to bind said tag and that is washed and concentrated, and

~~iv)~~ iii) eluting the autoantibodies from the concentrated carrier.

12. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 6,

wherein the partial sequence of the first and/or second loop is

selected from the group consisting of EYGSFF [SEQ ID NO: 1], SFFCEL [SEQ ID NO: 2], ARRCYND [SEQ ID NO: 3], and/or PKCCDF [SEQ ID NO: 4].

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Withdrawn) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHDVL, for use as a medicinal active substance.

17. (Withdrawn) Peptide of claim 16,
characterized in that
the peptide is bound by autoantibodies of patients having one of the following diseases: dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and/or Raynaud's Syndrome.

18. (Withdrawn) Peptide of claim 16,
characterized in that
the peptide is immobilized.

19. (Withdrawn) Peptide of claim 16,
characterized in that
the peptide is bound to a solid phase.

20. (Withdrawn) Recognition molecule directed against the peptide of claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) Recognition molecule of claim 20,
characterized in that
it is an antibody, a lectin, an antisense construct, and/or a chelator.

22. (Withdrawn) Pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNH, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD

and/or a recognition molecule directed against the peptide.

23. (Withdrawn) Kit comprising a peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD, a recognition molecule directed against the peptide, and/or a pharmaceutical composition comprising the peptide and/or the recognition molecule, if applicable with Instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation.

24. (Withdrawn) Chromatography device comprising peptides selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD and/or recognition molecules directed against the peptide.

25. (Withdrawn) Device of claim 24, characterized in that the peptides are bound to the solid phase.

26. – 29. (Cancelled)

30. (Withdrawn) Method for treating an autoimmune disease, selected from the group comprising dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension,refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis, Raynaud's syndrome, by means of binding and/or removing antibodies by means of peptidesselected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and/or ITTCHD, bound to a solid phase.

31. (Withdrawn) Method of claim 30, characterized in that the autoantibodies are directed against betal-adrenergic receptors in the case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, against betal-adrenergic receptors in the case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy,

against beta1-adrenergic receptors in the case of myocarditis, against muscarinergic M2 receptors in the case of dilatative cardiomyopathy, against muscarinergic M2 receptors in the case of Chagas' cardiomyopathy, against angiotensin II AT1 receptors in the case of preeclampsia, against angiotensin II AT1 receptors in the case of malignant hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of essential hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of refractory hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of pulmonary hypertension, against alpha1-adrenergic receptors in the case of psoriasis, and that the autoantibodies are directed against endothelin IA, PAR-1 PAR-2 and/or PAR-3 in the case of Raynaud's Syndrome.

32. (Currently Amended) Method for, diagnosis or monitoring progression of autoimmune diseases comprising

providing one or more chosen from the following

(a) Peptide selected from the group consisting of EYGSFF [SEQ ID NO: 1], SFFCEL [SEQ ID NO: 2], ARRCYND [SEQ ID NO: 3], and/or PKCCDF [SEQ ID NO: 4],

(b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide,

(c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule, or

(d) a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and

(e) a chromatrography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule, and diagnosing or monitoring the progression of said autoimmune diseases, wherein said autoimmune diseases are selected from the group consisting of dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and Raynaud' s Syndrome, and

bringing a bodily fluid into contact with <u>an agent for precipitating autoantibodies, wherein a fraction of said fluid comprising said autoantibodies is precipitated and wherein said autoantibodies are, upon precipitation, returned to essentially their native state,</u>

<u>bringing the precipitated fraction into contact with a peptide comprising a sequence or partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of a G protein-coupled receptor and a tag, whereby a mixture is formed in which the autoantibodies bind said sequence or partial sequence of said peptide,</u>

incubating the mixture with a carrier coated with an anti-tag to bind said tag,

washing the carrier,

incubating the carrier with anti-IgG antibody subclasses, wherein the anti-IgG antibody is marked for an enzyme reaction or color reaction, and

carrying out said enzyme reaction or color reaction

~~a provided peptide, whereby autoantibodies bind said peptide~~ and

detecting said autoantibodies bound to said peptide for the diagnosis or monitoring progression of said autoimmune diseases.

33. (Withdrawn) Method for the production of a medication for the treatment of autoimmune diseases selected from the group comprising dilatative cardiomyopathy, Chagas' cardiomyopathy, myocarditis, preeclampsia, malignant hypertension, essential hypertension, refractory hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, psoriasis and/or Raynaud' s syndrome, comprising the step of using one or more chosen from the following (a) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and ITTCHDVL (b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide (c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule (d)a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and (e) a chromatrography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule.

34. (Withdrawn) Method for Screening medications, comprising the step of one or more chosen from the following (a) Peptide selected from the group comprising EYGSFF, SFFCEL, ARRCYND, PKCCDF, AESDE, CYIQFF, EDGECY, VRTVEDGECYIQFFSNAAVTFGTAI, AFHYESQ, ENTNIT, FWAFGR, GRAFCDV, ITEEAGY, ERFCGI, GRIFCD and ITTCHDVL (b) a recognition molecule directed against said peptide (c) a pharmaceutical composition comprising said peptide and said recognition molecule (d) a kit comprising one of said peptide, said recognition molecule or said pharmaceutical composition, optionally with instructions for combining the contents of the kit and/or for making available a formulation and (e) a chromatrography device comprising said peptide or said recognition molecule.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the peptide comprises a partial sequence of the first and/or second loop of the G protein-coupled receptor and a tag.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the autoantibodies are associated with the dilative cardiomycopathy and are directed against a beta 1-adrenergen receptor and/or a muscarinergen M2 receptor.